(c) and (d) No, Sir. The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 has been extended throughout the country and the provisions of the Act are reportedly implemented by all the State Governments and Union Territories. Vigilance Committees as per Section 13 of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 have reportedly been constituted at District and Sub-Divisional levels in all the States except the State of Manipur. As there is no incidence of bonded labour in the State of Manipur, the State Government does not consider necessary to constitute the Vigilance Committees.

New Special Economic Zones

314. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has made announcement recently, to the fact that the proposed new special economic zones would be exempted from making contributions to Provident Fund and State Insurance Schemes to help exporters to compete in the international market.

(b) if so, the details thereof and labour unions' reaction thereto; and

(c) what steps are being contemplated to reconcile different views in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. It has been decided that in respect of Special Economic Zones, the State Government may apply for exemption; to the Central Government under Section 16(2) of the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, from the applicability of the provisions of the Act to SEZ for 5 years. The decision shall be taken on a case-to-case basis.

In respect of the ESI Act 1948, the State Government, being the appropriate Government may take a decision as per the powers provided under the Act.

Labour reforms

315. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH:
SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state: (a) whether it is proposed to bring out a comprehensive labour reforms;